



The SPIRIT

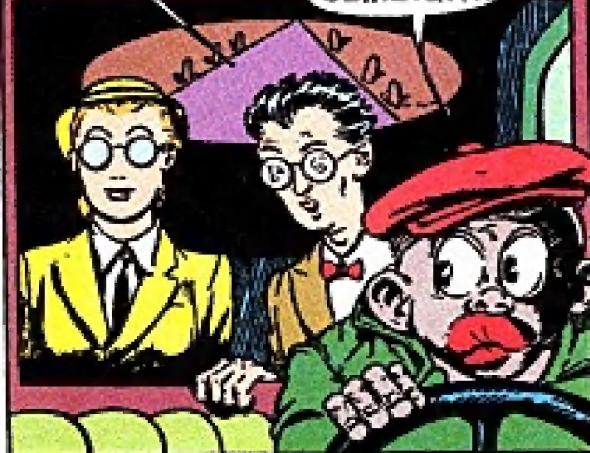
BY Will EISNER

NIGHT... A TAXI RATTLES ACROSS LONELY WILDWOOD CEMETERY ROAD...



I SAY, DRIVER, MUST YOU GO SO FAST ALONG HERE?

SORRY, BOSS, DIS CAR JES' NACHELLY SPEEDS UP WHEN AH DRIVES PAST WILDWOOD CEMETERY!



ON THE ROAD AHEAD A LITHE FIGURE DANGLES FROM A LIMB, SUSPENDED ONLY BY HIS TOES.



AS THE TAXI ZOOMS UNDER THE LIMB HIS HANDS DEFTLY GRASP THE WINDSHIELD...



AND



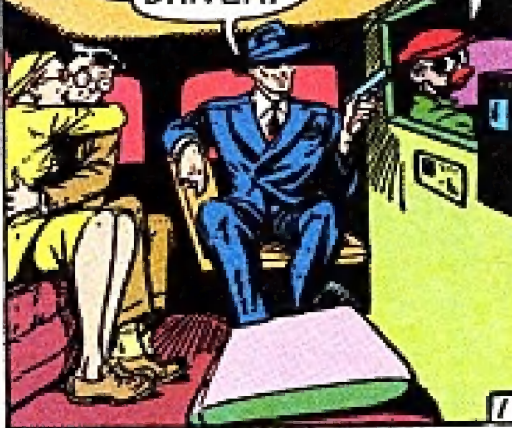
WITH NO APPARENT EFFORT HE SWINGS FEET FIRST INTO THE CAB.

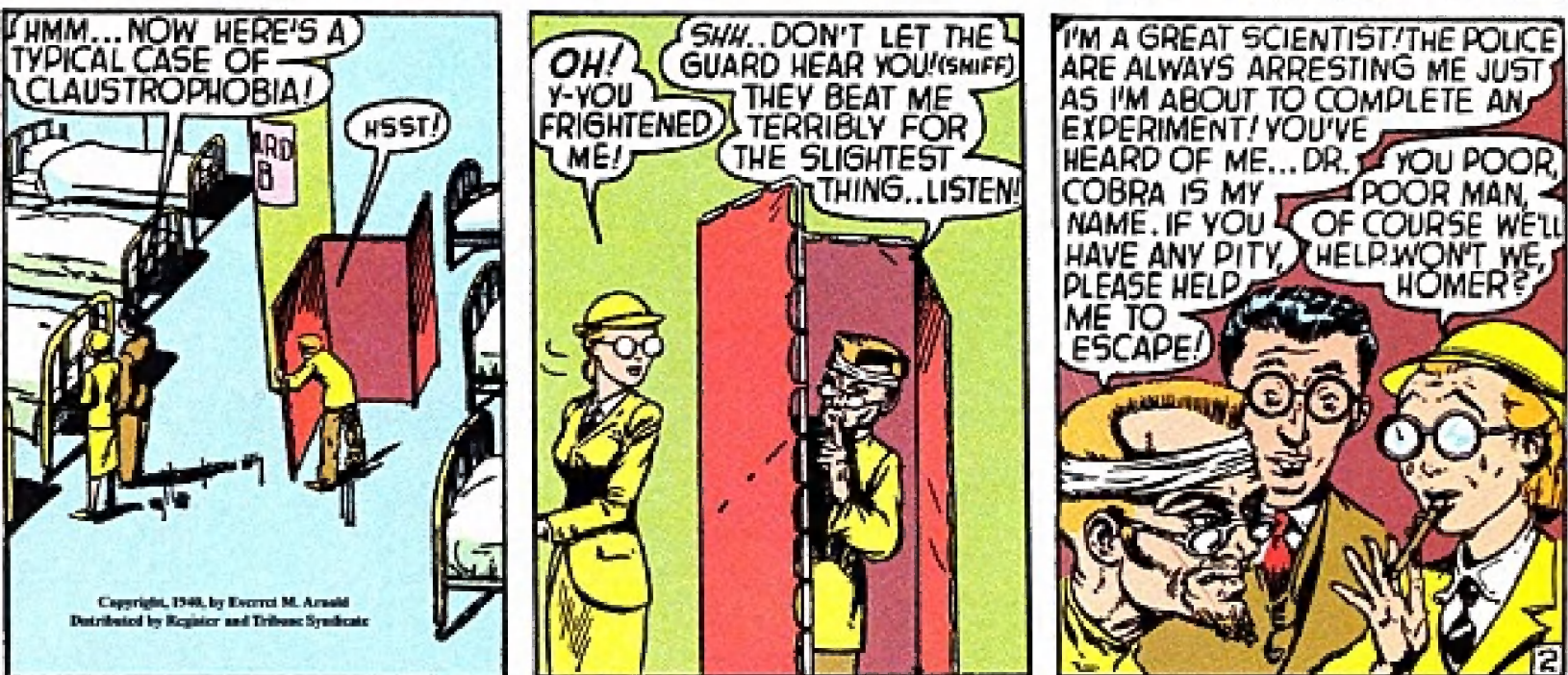
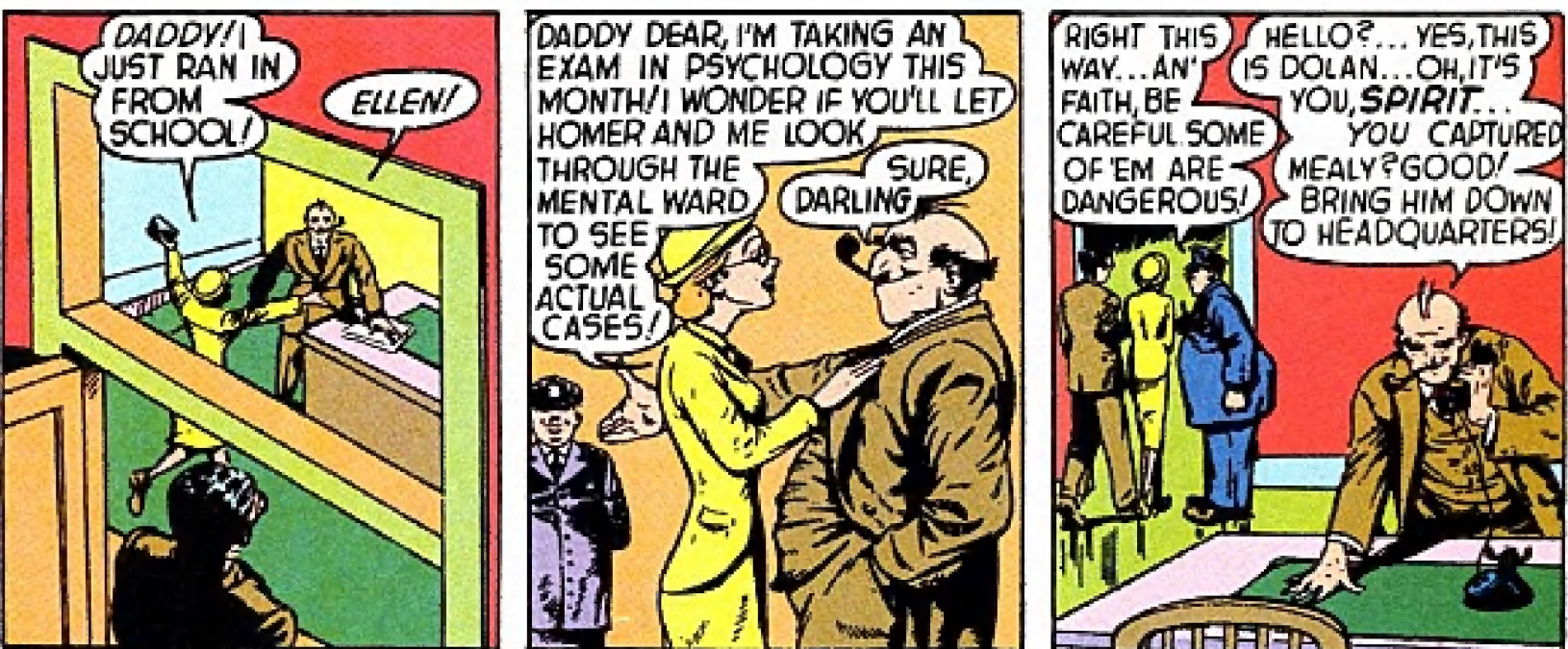
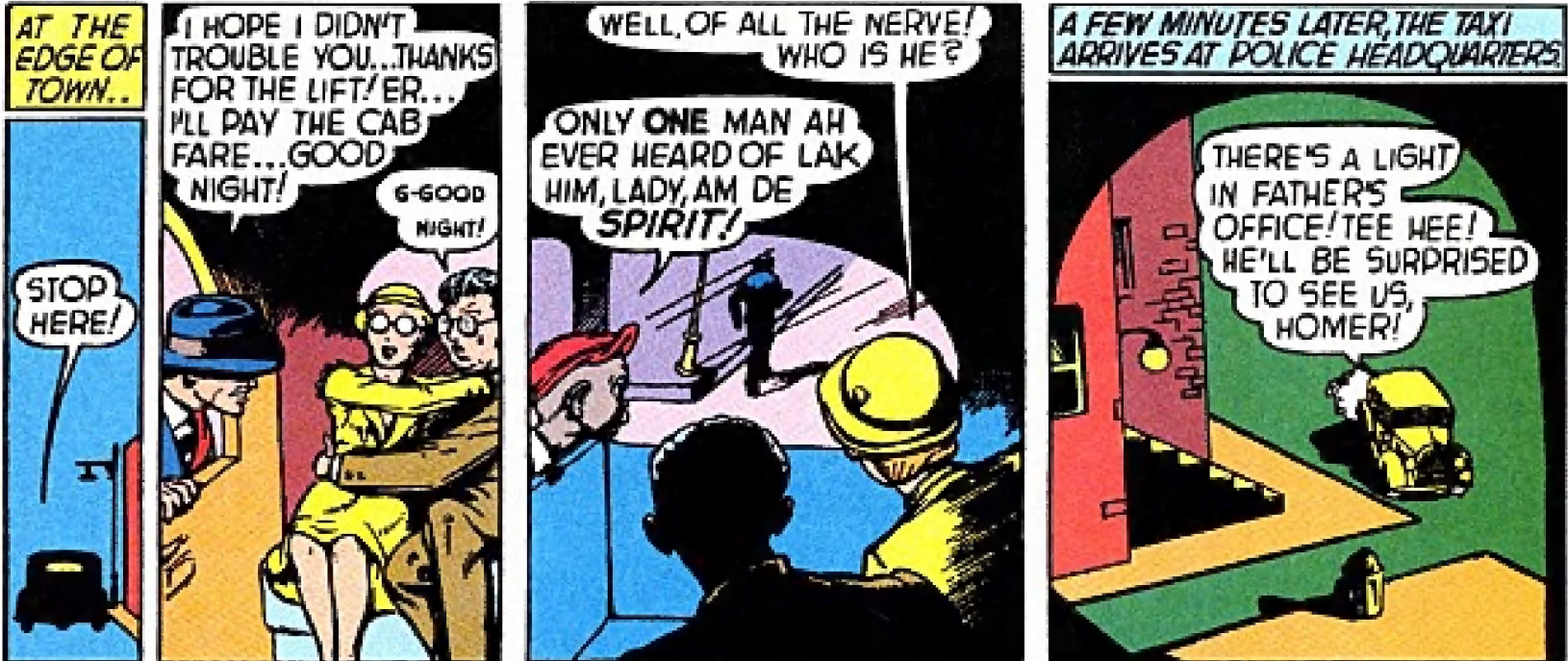
PARDON THE INTRUSION, BUT I'M IN A HURRY!



YOU SEE, TAXIS DON'T OFTEN PASS THROUGH WILDWOOD CEMETERY... KEEP GOING UNTIL I TELL YOU TO STOP, DRIVER!

Y---
YASS
(GULP) UH BOSS!





THE THREE SLIP PAST THE GUARDS AND CLAMBER DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE.



THERE'S A CAR BELOW, WAITING FOR ME! YOU SEE, I HAVE FRIENDS!

HYA, BOSS! WHO ARE DESE MONKEYS?



THEY HELPED ME ESCAPE! HSSST! GET THEM INTO THE CAR, QUICKLY!

I SAY, DR. COBRA, WHERE ARE WE GOING? TO MY HIDEOUT! ANY OBJECTIONS?



AT DR. COBRA'S HEADQUARTERS.



LISSEN, GUYS, COBRA AIN'T EVER GONNA ESCAPE! NOW, I GOT BRAINS... I'M GONNA TAKE OVER DIS MOB!

REALLY?

WITH AMAZING STRENGTH FOR ONE SO SMALL, DR. COBRA LIFTS THE THUG BY THE THROAT...



G-GL-G... GAGG!

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ANY MORE OF YOU WHO THINK YOU CAN OUTSMART ME!



MEANWHILE, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.



SHE'S GONE!

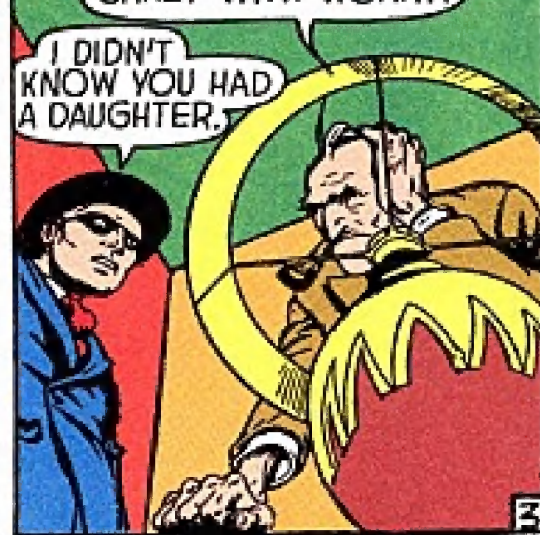
NO NEWS OF MY DAUGHTER YET!

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT, DOLAN?



THE SPIRIT!

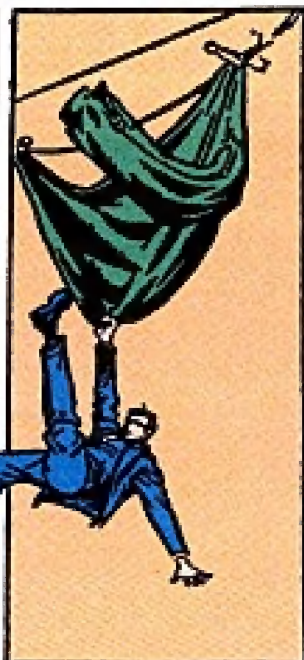
DR. COBRA ESCAPED AND TOOK MY DAUGHTER WITH HIM! I'VE GOT THE WHOLE FORCE OUT... NO LUCK! I'M NEARLY CRAZY WITH WORRY!



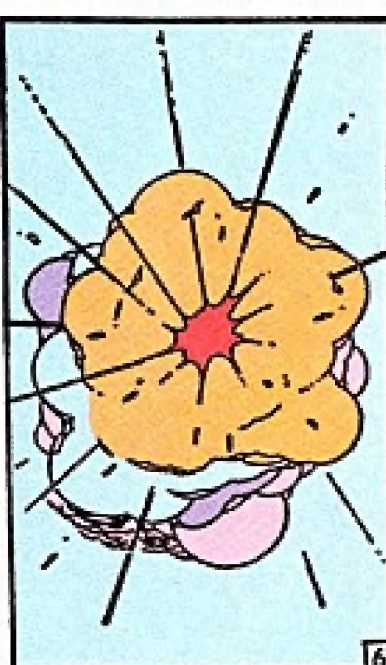
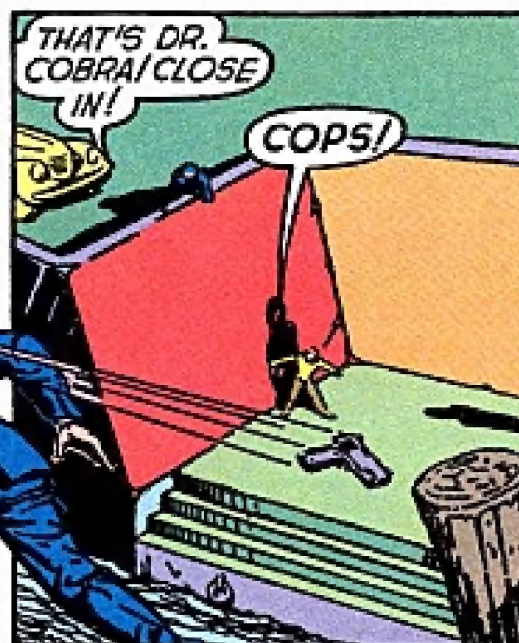
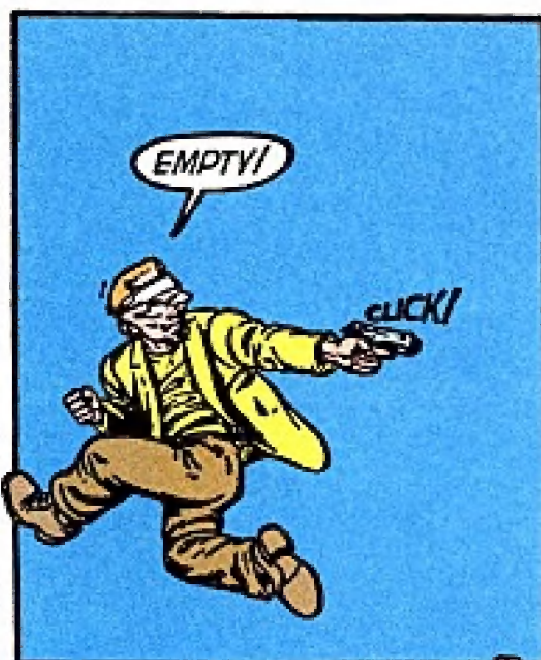
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A DAUGHTER.







A MOMENT LATER,
THE SPIRIT DROPS
LIGHTLY TO THE
SIDEWALK JUST
BEHIND THE
FLEEING COBRA



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AT COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S HOME...

DR. COBRA KILLS

After a sharp gun battle, the police and a mysterious person, known as "THE SPIRIT", cornered the escaped and original on the docks near Water St. Realizing he was trapped, Dr. Cobra blew himself up with a homemade bomb.

"SPIRIT, I'VE INVITED YOU TO THIS LITTLE DINNER, FOR MY DAUGHTER IS ANNOUNCING HER ENGAGEMENT TO MR. HOMER CREAM!"

INDEED? CONGRATULATIONS!

CREAP!



AND AS MY GIFT, MAY I BE PERMITTED TO... ER... HA! HA! RENOVATE YOUR FIANCEE? SURE, IF YOU DON'T CHANGE HER TOO MUCH!

WHY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



NO, MERELY REMOVE THESE UGLY GLASSES AND LOOSEN HER HAIR!



AND PRESTO! I GIVE YOU A NEW ELLEN!

G-GOSH! YOU ARE BEEYOOTIFUL!



ER... AHM! NOW MAY I CLAIM MY REWARD?

DARLING!



AND NOW, GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE... AND MAY YOU TWO BE VERY HAPPY!



OH, HOMER PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME TO THINK OVER OUR ENGAGEMENT!

THE SPIRIT AGAIN FOILS THE DENIZENS OF THE UNDERWORLD IN ANOTHER EXCITING ADVENTURE NEXT WEEK!